Exploitation of beedi workers

847. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the untold miseries being unleashed by the owners of the beedi factories on the beedi workers in Allahabad region, especially Gursahai Ganj, Farrukhabad in the matter of payment of wages, non-implementation of minimum wages, illegal deductions of different types e.g. Patta, Katauti, Dharmadho etc ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ghar Khata Workers are not supplied adequate/prescribed quantity of raw material and are forced to produce more beedis than the raw material supplied, failing which their wages are deducted at will; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent the exploitation of beedi workers at the hands of factory owners, sattedars and Thekedars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) No specific complaints on the subject about the Allahabad region have been received.

The enforcement of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 as regards beedi workers and the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 is the responsibility of the State Governments. State Governments are requested from time to time regarding the effective enforcement of these laws.

Construction of Yatri Niwas

848. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build more Yatri Niwas in the country during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MOHD. SYED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism proposes to take up at least one Yatri Niwas in each State/U.T. in the first phase of the current Plan. There is an allocation of Rs. 100.00 lakhs for the purpose for the current financial year, as against a total allocation of Rs. 600 lakhs for the 7th Plan period.

The construction of Yatri Niwases have been approved and funds already released in case of Yatri Niwases at Port Blair, Goa, Kurukshetra, Kancheepuram, Satpada, Palam, Dakore, Darjeeling and Jullundhur.

The proposals have been received from another 15 States/UTs, which are being processed. The remaining States and UTs are being persuaded to forward their proposal with blueprints and estimates.

Face lift for ITDC hotels

849. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC propose to utilise its growing profits for giving facelift to hotels run by it; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The renovation, including giving a facelift to ITDC hotels, is a continuos process with a view to keeping these properties contemporary and competitive. The expenditure on renovation etc. forms part of the capital Plan Budget financed partly through government budgetary support and partly through internal resources generated by the Corporation. During the current year a sum of Rs. 250 lakhs has been provided in the approved capital Plan Budget for improvement/alterations/renova-